"'I will appeal to the entire press corp to take two weeks off to help me,' said Mrs. Mitchell, and then she hurried out . . ."

Post 6/10/70

Martha in Tears

By Dorothy McCardle

Martha Mitchell, wife of Attorney General John Mitchell, was so choked up yesterday over parting with her good friends, the Bill Woestendicks that she ducked out of a press conference without giving her prepared speech about them.

The press conference had been called at the Madison Hotel to announce new jobs for Mrs. Mitchell's press secretary, Kay Woestendiek, and Kays' husband, William J. Woestendiek.

Mrs. Mitchell arrived with the couple after spending an hour with their new boss, Herman M. Greenspun, owner of the Las Vegas Sun and the Colorado Springs Sun. Woestendiek becomes publisher, editor and part-owner of the Colorado Springs Sun. His wife will be women's editor.

Mrs. Mitchell seemed to hold herself responsible for the Woestendicks' problems in Washington. Bill Woestendiek lost his job as editor of WETA's Newsroom after his wife went to work for the controversial Mrs. Mitchell.

In her unread statement, left behind in a pile at the press conference, Mrs. Mitchell explained why she was present.

"I am here this afternoon because Kay and Bill are my friends and because of this friendship their stay in Washington has been cut short.

"These two things have brought us even closer to-

See ANNOUNCE, B2, Col. 1

PEOPLE

By Harry Naltchayan—The Washington Post

Martha Mitchell with William and Kay Woestendiek at a press conference.

THE WASHINGTON POST
B2 Wednesday, June 10, 1970

"Hank Greenspun . . . said he had been 'glamorized by Mrs. Mitchell' before the press conference began."

Martha Mitchell in Tears

ANNOUNCE, From B1

gether, and our concern for each other's well-being is far more intense than they might have been. I have known and encouraged their interest in moving to Colorado since the day Bill spoke to Mr. Greenspun. On the other hand , I haven't wanted to see Kay leave.

"On the other hand, I know how desperately she and Bill and I want to work together and pursue a mutual goal. Knowing this, I feel their adventure is a chance of a lifetime . . .

"I want to tell you what an inspiration it has been to see the wonderful way members of the press have rallied around one of their own when he was so shamefully treated. That kind of loyalty is beautiful."

Her statement wound up by denying that the attorney general had anything to do with hiring Mrs. Woestendiek.

Mrs. Mitchell was before the microphones, facing a battery of cameras when she decided to leave.

She rushed out of the room with reporters behind her. Half sobbing, she said she could not bear to think of Kay Woestendiek leaving, that they had not discussed a parting date and that she has no candidate in mind for Kay's job.

"I will appeal to the entire press corps to take two weeks off to help me," said Mrs. Mitchell, and then hurried out, back to her apartment and the stack of mail —500 letters a week. Kay Woestendiek's last day of help with Martha Mitchell's mail will be Thursday.

With a smile, Mrs. Mitchell asked a reporter if she would take on the job. It's rumored that she has tentatively offered the spot to Winzola McLendon, who recently completed a magazine article about Mrs. Mitchell for LOOK Magazine.

Mrs. Mitchell became increasingly embarrassed as she listened to praise from the Woestendiek's new boss. Hank Greenspun, in Las Vegas show biz style, said he had been "glamorized by Mrs. Mitchell" before the press conference began.

He looked at the battery of microphones, rows of reporters and photographers and said he realized that none of this high-powered publicity was for him. Then he compared himself to the magician on stage who did not realize that the wild applause from his audience was "for the blonde doing the stip tease behind him."

Mrs. Mitchell leaned over to a reporter back of her and whispered: "Well, you live and learn!"

After praise for his two new employees, Greenspun got back to Martha Mitchell.

"I don't know why you think harshly of her," said Greenspun. "I think she is adorable. If it weren't for the Mrs. Mitchells of this world, we newspaper people would be out of business. She is the foremost exponent of freedom of speech in America today."